DELAREY'S FORCE BEATEN.

French Defeats the Boers With Heavy Loss.

A despatch from Johannesburg, says;—Gen. French, on Wednesday attacked a Boer force numbering 2,500, with five guns. They are believed to have been the burghers who defeated the British at Nooitgedacht a few days ago.

The engagement took place 16 miles north-west of Krugersdorp.

More than forty of the Boers were killed and the remainder were routed.

The British lost 14 wounded.

NINE WAGGON LOADS.

Boers Suffered Severely in Their Fight With Clements.

A despatch from Pretoria says;—The Northumberland Fusiliers who were captured by the Boers at Nooitgedacht made a dogged defence against superior numbers, and fought on until their ammunition was exhausted. Then, when they saw that they were irretrievably hemmed in, and that there was no hope of assistance from the valley below, where Gen. Clements had his hands full directing the retirement of the balance of his force, they surrendered. Most of the prisoners have since been released at a point close to Rustenburg

The Boers lost heavily. They carried nine waggon loads of dead and wounded off the field.

General Clements' entire force had a narrow escape from capture. The Boer plans were splendidly laid. If the main British column had tarried a little longer, there would have been a complete success for the Boers, who exposed themselves undauntedly, yelling and waving their arms. Their rushes were only stemmed by artillery.

After the British retreat, the Boers held a prayer meeting. Their hymns could be heard by the retiring soldiers.

Col. Legge exhibited splendid bravery. He shot five Boers with his revolver before he fell with three bullets in his body.

BOERS LOST FORTY MEN.

Now Carrying Off Stock in the Ladybrand District.

A despatch from Maseru, Basutoland, says the Boers are carrying off stock in the Ladybrand district. General De Wet's forces are supposed to be the raiders.

General De Wet's losses in breaking through the British lines on December 11 were 30 killed and wounded and 12 men made prisoners.

General Knox has been forced to abandon the pursuit of General De Wet owing to the situation created in Cape Colony by the Boers crossing the Orange river.

An attack on Winburg is momentarily expected.

CARGO OF MULES.

The British Are Now Buying the Smallest Animals.

A despatch from New Orleans, says:—The British transport Montezuma left here on Wednesday with a cargo of 1,400 mules. A big revival in the shipment of stock to South Africa for the use of the British army has occurred. Nine vessels have left for Cape Town during the month, carrying 3,786 horses and 5,700 mules, worth more than $1,000,000. Nearly all the animals were purchased in Texas and Missouri.

The British officers bought originally the largest and finest mules in the market. They are buying to-day only the smallest animals which would be rejected on any plantation, animals not much larger than a burro, and they report that these little mules are far better adapted to the climate of Africa, stand the exposure better, and have proportionately longer lives than larger ones. The transportation of the mules is so perfect here that the loss in transport is barely 1 per cent., in spite of some overcrowding of the vessels, a long voyage of 7,500 miles and very bad weather all the winter.

FOURTEEN FURNACES DAMPED.

Collapse of the Scotch Iron and Steel Trade Complete.

A despatch from Glasgow says the collapse of the Scotch Iron and Steel trade is the most complete in the knowledge of the oldest producers. Many works will be closed indefinitely as soon as the orders now on hand have been filled. Fourteen furnaces will be damped by the end of the year. Clyde shipbuilders have ordered 150,000 tons of plates from the United States, thereby affecting a saving of £50,000.

SHOT HIS OFFICER DEAD.

Sergeant in Kitchener's Horse Kills Lieut. Burges.

A despatch from Krugersdorp says:—Lieut. Burges, of Kitchener's Horse, was shot dead by a sergeant of the same regiment. The latter was believed to have been drinking too much, and on being ordered out of the ranks he turned round and deliberately shot his officer.

A sergeant of the Royal Field Artillery committed suicide on the same day.

This town is rapidly filling with refugees from the country, and every house is utilized in giving them shelter. The military authorities are sending in all people living on farms, whether trustworthy or not, the forage, grain, etc., being destroyed. This action will doubtless prevent the bands of marauders now infesting the country, from obtaining supplies, and must soon tend to diminish their dashes for loot in the vicinity of towns.

FIRE AT HANOVER.

The Knechtel Furniture Factory Burned to the Ground.

A despatch from Hanover, Ont., says:—This town was visited by a disastrous fire on Thursday afternoon. It originated about 4.30 o'clock in the Knechtel furniture factory, one of the largest in the Dominion. There was practically no fire protection system in the town. Aid was summoned from Walkerton, Palmerston,, Neustadt, and Chesley. The first brigade arrived in the course of an hour or so, but the factory was burned to the ground. It covered about two acres of land, and not a wall is left standing. About ten million feet of lumber in the yard and the saw mill were saved. The loss was about $120,000, and the insurance $60,000.

The fire spread to adjoining buildings, and the following places were completely consumed:—The Greutzner Furniture Company and undertaking establishment. T. Poehlman and Company, flour and feed. B. F. Ahrens, hardware. Graff and Wepplr, general dry goods. W. Roloff, photographer. H. Maurer, blacksmith and carriage works. Chas. Doepel, flour and feed.

The total loss in the town is about a quarter of a million dollars. The situation is a serious one, as the Knechtel factory, employing 250 hands, was the mainstay of Hanover, which has a population of about 2,200.

FOR THE SOLDIER DEAD.

Impressive Service Held in St Paul's.

A despatch from London, says;—There was an impressive service at St. Paul's on Wednesday afternoon in memory of the soldiers who have been killed during the Boer war. The church was crowded. The Lord Mayor, the sheriffs, Secretary of War Brodrick, and ex-Commander-in-Chief Wolseley, were among those present. The services were conducted by Dean Gregory.

BOERS ARE ACTIVE

Attacked Kaalfontein But Were Driven Off.

A despatch from Pretoria says;—The Boers are exhibiting considerable activity between Kaalfontein and Zuerfontein, stations between this city and Johannesburg. Five hundred of them attacked Kaalfontein on Tuesday afternoon, but were beaten off.

TOTAL CASUALTIES 126

Of This Number 82 Were Killed or Wounded.

A despatch from London says;—The British losses at Nooitgedacht according to the official accounts were 82 killed and wounded, with 44 missing and still unaccounted for.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Prices of Cattle, Cheese, Grain, &c in the Leading Markets.

BREADSTUFFS, ETC.

Toronto, Dec. 24.—Wheat—Ontario wheats rather firmer, and some demand from exporters. Several cars of red and white, middle freights, sold to-day at 63 1-2c. Manitobas were unchanged. Quotations are as follows;—Red winter, 63 1-2c; and white, 63 1-2c, middle freights; spring wheat, east, 66c; Manitoba, No. 1 spring east, 66c; Manitoba, No. 1 hard, old, g.i.t., 92 1-2c; and No. 2 at 87c; No. 1 hard, North Bay, 91c.

Millfeed—Scarce; ton lots, at the mill door; sell as follows;—Bran, $12 to $12.50; and shorts, at $14 to $14.50, west.

Corn—Easy. No. 1 American, yellow, 45c, on track here; and mixed, 44 1-2c.

Peas—Steady, and in fair demand; No. 2 sold, middle freights, at 61 1-2c; and east at 62c.

Barley—Easy. No. 2, east, 41c; and middle freights, 40c; No. 3 extra, 39 1-2c, east; and 38 1-2c, middle freights.

Rye—Easy. New rye, 46c west, and 47c east.

Buckwheat—About steady. Car lots, west, are quoted at 49c; and east at 50c.

Oats—Demand active. One lot of twenty cars of No. 1 white, on the Midland, sold at 27c to-day. Same, middle freights, are quoted at 26 1-2c. Light white oats and mixed oats are quoted firm at 1-2 to 1c less.

Flour—Dull. Holders ask $2.65 for 90 per cent. patents, in buyers' bags, middle freights and exporters bid $2.55. Special brands sell locally from 10 to 20c above these figures.

PRODUCE.

Eggs—Fresh eggs scarce. Cold stored are principally in demand, and are selling at 18c. Prices are as follows: Boiling stock, 26 to 28c; cold stored, 18c; limed, 15 to 16c.

Poultry—Receipts were large to-day but holiday buying set in, and a big trade was done. Prices were firm all round. Choice, brightu turkeys brought 10c, and bright geese as high as 7c. Quotations are as follows:—Chickens, per pair, 25 to 40c; ducks, per pair, 40 to 70c; turkeys, per lb. 9 to 10c; geese per lb. 6 to 7c.

Potatoes—Firm. Car lots, on track here, sold to-day at 30c. Sales, out of store, are made at 35 to 40c.

Field produce, etc.—Turnips, out of store, 30c per bag.; onions, 60c per bag.; carrots, 40c per bag; apples, per bbl., 40c to $1; sweet potatoes, per bbl., $2,50.

Dried fruits—Dried apples, sell at 3 1-2 to 4c; and evaporated at 5 to 5 1-2c.

Beans—Ordinary white beans bring $1.20 to $1.25; choice hand-picked beans are quoted at $1.40 to $1.45.

Honey—Firm, Dealers quote from 9 1-2 to 10c per lb. for 5, 10 or 60-lb tins, according to the size of the order. Comb honey sells at $2.40 to $2.75 per dozen sections.

Baled hay—Firm. Choice timothy, on track, $10.25. Two-ton lots, delivered, $11. Straw.—Scarce. Car lots of straw, on track here, $7.

DRESSED HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs on the street to-day were unchanged at $7.25 to $7.40. Car lots, track here, were quoted at $6.90 to $7. Provisions are active. Lumbermen, who have been holding off expecting lower prices, are placing orders freely. The lumber trade is reported in first-class condition, and a large demand for provisions from this source is looked for.

Quotations for provisions are as follows;—Dry salted shoulders, 8c; long clear bacon, loose, in car lots, 10c; and in case lots, 10 1-4 to 10 1-2c; short cut pork, $19.50 to $20; heavy mess, $17.50 to $18.

Smoked meats—Hams, heavy, 12c; medium, 12 1-2 to 13 1-2c; light, 13 1-2c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13 1-2c; picnic hams, 0c; rol. bacon, 11c; smoked backs, 13c. All meats out of pickle 1c less than prices quoted for smoked meats.

Lard—Tierces, 10c; tubs, 10 to 10 1-4c; pails, 10 1-4 to 10 1-2c.

Buffalo, Dec. 24.—Spring wheat—No. 1 hard, old, carloads, 83 3-4c; No. 1 Northern, old, carloads, 80 3-4c. Winter wheat—No. 2 red, 77c; mixed, 76c; No. 1 white, 75c. Corn—Quiet: No. 2 yellow, 42 1-2c asked; No. 3 yellow, 42c; No. 4 yellow, 41 1-4c; No. 2 corn, 41 1-2 to 41 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 41 to 41 1-4c; No. 4 corn, 40 1-2 to 40 3-4c. Oats—No. 2 white, 28c; No. 3 white, 28 to 28 1-4c; No. 4 white, 27 to 27 1-4c; No. 2 mixed, 25 3-4 to 26c; No. 3 mixed, 25c. Barley—Extra, 64 to 65c; choice to fancy, 62 to 63c; fair to good, 57 to 60c; low grade, 52 to 56c. Rye—No. 1 in store, 56c Flour—Dull and weak.

Detroit, Dec. 24.—Wheat closed—No. 1 white, cash, 77c; No. 2 red; cash, 77c; December, 77c; May, 79 1-4c.

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—Wheat closed—Cash, 71c; December, 70 5-8c; January, 71 1-4c; May, 72 3-4c.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Wheat was easy early to-day but rallied later on bullish Argentine advices, firm Continental markets, and a better cash demand; May closing 1-4 to 3-4c over Saturday. Corn closed unchanged to 1-4c higher. Oats a shade lower and provisions 5 to 17 1-2c.

Milwaukee, Dec. 24.—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 72 1-2 to 73c; No. 2, Northern, 69 to 70 1-2c. Rye—Firm; No. 1, 51c. Barley—Firm; No. 2, 60c; sample, 45 to 56c.

Duluth, Dec. 24.—Wheat—Cash, No. 1, hard, 72 7-8c; No, 1 Northern, 70 7-8c; No. 2 Northern, nil; No. 3 spring, 52 1-2 to 59c; to arrive, No. 1 hard, 73 5-8; No. 1 Northern, 51 5-8c; December, 50 5-8c; May, 75 1-8c; Corn 33 3-4c. Oats—24 1-4 to 24c.

Minneapolis. Dec. 24.—Wheat—Cash, 72 1-4c; May, 73 3-4c; on track, No. 1 hard, 74 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 72 1-4c; No. 2 Northern, 67 1-4c.

MARCH OF THE INVADERS.

They Numbered Several Thousand and Have Given Battle.

A despatch from London says:—The extensive proclamation of martial law in the Cape Colony sufficiently indicates the serious view the Government takes of the latest development in South Africa. The War Office has issued nothing more than General Kitchener's official despatch, but official news telegraphed from Cape Town fills in the outlines. It is learned from these despatches that the Rhenoster invaders occupied Venterstad Tuesday, but vacated the place on the approach of a British force, and went in the direction of Steynsburg, which they expected to reach on Thursday. In this, however, they were baulked, the British garrisoning the place strongly before they arrived. The official statements add that the invaders will now have great difficulty in moving in any direction, as Burghersdorp, Stormberg, Steynsberg, Rosmead, and Naauwpoort are strongly held, while the Orange river has risen considerably, barring their return. They were last reported in the Zuurberg range, between Steynsburg and Venterstad.

Regarding the Sand river invasion, an official report says that 2,000 Boers crossed the river, making for Colesberg. A column was despatched from Colesberg, and the Boers were diverged in the direction of Philipstown, which they occupied Wednesday. A portion of the commando occupied Hout Kraal station Thursday, cutting the railway. Considerable reinforcements have been despatched to De Aar and Hanover road, and it is expected that the Boer advance will be stopped. Hitherto there has been little fighting, the invaders having in every instance retired before the British.

At Venterstad the Boers took 20 of the garrison prisoners.

They summoned the Hamelfontein garrison to surrender, but the demand was refused. The Boers then attacked them, and the fighting lasted some hours. The burghers were eventually driven off.

An unofficial report from Cape Town confirms the report of the recrudescence of rebellion immediately southwest of the Orange river.

ENGAGED BRABANT'S FORCE

Who Were Forced to Retire for a Time.

A despatch from Cape Town says:—There is confirmation of the news that the Boers have again invaded Cape Colony. A force reported to be under command of Herzog, crossed the Orange river near Aliwal North on Saturday and started south. On Sunday Brabant's corps and the Cape Police, who are patrolling Northern Cape Colony, encountered the invading commando between Odendaalstroom and Bethulie. They headed the Boers off and pursued them, but were forced to fall back.

Herzog's commando is 700 strong. The object of the invasion is to incite the Cape Dutch to rebellion, and to recruit fighting men to help them in the Boer country.

All along the northern border of Cape Colony much disaffection exists. The British suffered severely in a fight near Rouxville, thirty miles north of Aliwal North. They lost 11 killed, 15 wounded, and 48 taken prisoners.

ARMY CORPS DISAPPEAR.

Has No Such Place in War as Britain Now Wages.

A despatch from London says:—One of the things that appear to have been settled by the Boer war is the disappearance from the British army of the organization known as the army corps. It is stated authoritatively that the division is the largest tactical unit that can be conveniently employed in the field. The army corps sent to South Africa went to pieces immediately after it landed, and all subsequent reinforcements went out as divisions, and Lord Roberts worked with the divisional unit throughout. However much the corps organization may be adapted to European warfare, it has no place in such wars as Great Britain usually wages. With the disappearance of the army corps, corps troops will go, and the divisions will have their own small proportion of cavalry and artillery. The cavalry and artillery will then have cumstances.

WANTS A FREE PARDON

De Wet's Losses at Dewetsdorf Very Heavy.

A despatch from London says;—Gen. De Wet has temporarily disappeared from the scene. A prisoner that he released has arrived at Bloemfontein. He states that when the Boers attacked Dewetsdorp they had 6,000 men and 18,000 horses. Gen. De Wet is said to have told the prisoner, who is apparently a civilian, that he lost more in killed at Dewetsdorp than the entire British casualties. He admitted that he was beaten, but said he was determined not to surrender without honor. He wanted a free pardon for all his followers, many of whom are Cape rebels. He declared that he was able to hold out till March. The prisoner confirms the report that Gen. De Wet was hard hit at Thaba N'Chu, when his force was trisected. He lost several prisoners, a number of horses, a quantity of ammunition, and two guns, in addition to his heavy casualties.

THEIR WIVES QUARREL.

Ottawa Man Stabbed to the Heart by a Companion.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Stabbed to the heart with a knife in the hands of Emery Carisse, a man named Joseph Laurencelle was murdered here on Thursday night. The affair occurred about 10 o'clock. The two families lived in a shack on the old Rideau rifle range, and during the evening a quarrel ensued between their wives. The older woman, who was the wife of Carisse, appears to have been getting the worst of it, and her husband went to her assistance. He was attacked by Luarencelle, and says he was smashed over the head with a chair. Carisse then drew a knife and stabbed his opponent, who ran upstairs, flung himself on the bed, and died in a few minutes, while every drop of blood exuded from his body.

Unconscious of his crime, pCarisse went to the police station to lay a charge against Laurencelle, and when he returned home he learned the fatal results of the fray. He was immediately placed under arrest.

In addition to receiving the heart stab the dead man's nose was broken. A common jack knife proved the instrument of death. The dead man was 36 years old, while the one charged with the murder is nearly 80. The latter claims he did the deed in self-defence. The place where the parties lived is a hovel with every evidence of distress and poverty. The accused is well known in Ottawa, and has always had a good reputation.

EXPLODING AMMUNITION.

Terrific Explosition Kills and Wounds Many Boers.

A despatch from Pretoria says that during General Clements' retreat the Boer fire was so heavy that the British were forced to abandon a quantity of ammunition.

The Boers mistook the nature of the ammunition and set fire to it. A terrific explosion followed, killing and wounding a number of Boers.